

The **Parks and Recreation Board** met Monday, February 26, 2007 at 4:30pm in the Board of Works room at City Hall.

Present at said meeting were Leon Trachtman, Paula Woods, Mike Dana, Garnet Peck, Karen Springer and Attorney John Sorensen. Joe Payne, Pennie Ainsworth, Chris Foley, Brenda Lorenz, and Cheryl Kolb represented the department. Council members Ann Hunt and Gil Satterly were also present. Absent were Council member Gerry Keen and from the Department, Lee Booth.

Leon convened the Board at 4:32 pm.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the January 22, 2007 meeting. Garnet motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Paula seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Superintendent – Joe reported on the following:

- Noted the Council Report was included in the mailing.

Parks – Joe reported in Lee's absence on the following:

- Spending a lot of time doing snow removal and repairing of snow removal equipment
- Working on restroom renovations

Assistant Superintendent – Pennie reported on the following:

- Working on Global Fest
- Passed around a copy of 'Travel Indiana' that was in Indianapolis Monthly. It mentioned the Celery Bog.

Recreation – Chris reported on the following:

- The basketball program for grades 2, 3 and 4 completed on Saturday, February 10. Greg Tudor coached the 45 second graders and 42 third grader. Rick Forbes coached the second half of the season for the 21 fourth graders.
- Riverside Skating center has had a good season. The warming weather made for more work for the staff but attendance figures set several new records. Attendance figure is up by approximately 1,200.
- The 4th annual Dare to Bear was held Friday, February 2. 82 people braved the 12 degree weather to skate laps in their bathing suits. Thanks to the Purdue Service Center – Papa John's for donating pizzas, American vending for donating hot chocolate, Sports Etc for donating winter hats and L.A. Fireworks and Party Supplies for donating leis to go along with the Hawaiian theme.
- The Crisis Center held their annual Penguin Fling at the Skating Center on Saturday, February 24. This year the penguins were tossed on the ice due to the wet conditions.
- Private rentals have increased this season. The Skating Center offers private rentals on Tuesday evenings, Thursday afternoons and limited Saturday mornings. Skate lessons are offered four Saturday mornings. Tuesday evenings is the most popular rental time.
- The Skating Center season will conclude the regular schedule season this Sunday, March 4, weather permitting. Ice skating season is the Friday after Thanksgiving to the first weekend in March.

Morton Center – Brenda reported on the following:

- There have been 1,293 registrations for our winter session compared to 1,348 registrations last year at this time, a decrease of 4%.

- Morton did close on February 13 and 14, the dates of the blizzard. Instructors are trying to schedule make up classes for the classes missed.
- We have had some good publicity regarding Morton classes over the past month. There was a paragraph about Morton in the Convention and Visitor's Bureau newsletter Travel Tippecanoe 2007. Thanks to Paula for including that. The Journal and Courier had an article about the pottery program with many nice color photos. The belly dance program was highlighted in an Accent on Health magazine that The Journal and Courier does.
- Maintenance staff have been rotating weekly filling in for the Morton caretaker position. They are doing a terrific job. Some of our harder to please customers have pointed out how clean the restrooms and kitchen have been and have commented about how nice and accommodating the staff is. Instructors have been pointing out that the maintenance staff is really keeping busy.
- Morton received a \$5,000 bequest from the Ardith Johnson trust to be used for the West Lafayette Senior Center – today know as our Euchre group. It has been deposited in a non-reverting account. We can apply it toward expenses or to off set raises to room fees.

Old Business

Personnel

Joe passed around a memo. We have received 62 applications in response to our posting and advertising for the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Technician II position. We have reviewed those and would like the Board's approval in hiring Becky Hardebeck our best applicant for landscaping work subject to clearance and approval by the Human Resources Department effective March 19. Bi-weekly pay of \$1,056.50 with a 90 probationary period followed by an increase to \$1,147.01 bi-weekly upon completion of the 90 day period.

We also have an excellent group of applicants that we will review for interviews for a permanent position for the 2:30 to 11 pm shift Morton Center.

Requesting approval of an increase of bi-weekly pay from \$1,231.76, the minimum for a Parks and Recreation Maintenance Technician I position to \$1,305.76 for Ken Vanderhoff. The increase is budgeted and is possible due to the changes to the employment status of Brian Tunis and the retirement of Sandie Hurd. Garnet moved to adopt the recommendation for the entire request. Mike seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Lincoln Park

The request for quotes and plans and specs for the concrete work at Lincoln Park will be taken to the Board of Works tomorrow for approval. When the ground gets reasonably workable we will do the concrete pad for the shelter and the walk around the playground. We will then be working to get the playground and the shelter installed, and we will be adding the benches, drinking fountain, litter container, and bike loop, then proceed to do sod, seed and landscaping. We hope to have Lincoln Park finished and ready for use by late spring.

New Business

Farmers' Market

Joe reported that Cheryl has mailed out the callout notice and contracts for the Sagamore West Farmers' Market. Cathy Cubberley who lives on Lagrange Street will be our new Market Master with assistance from Kathleen Mills. The market will operate from May 2 to October 24, with no market on July 4.

Trails Guide

Joe presented a draft copy of the revised Trails Guide, which was formerly called the Recreation Guide. This is a draft based on changes we have made over time; it shows trails, bike lanes, planned trails, and connecting routes. Please give comments and corrections back to Joe soon. Hope to have it available after Spring Break.

West Lafayette School Board – Karen reported on the following:

The teacher contract has been settled, retroactive to July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2008. Main points of the contract were pay increases for three years, change in health insurance carrier and modifications to the employer/employee rate ratio. Two-year pilot program is in the contract where select teachers can opt to take a sixth class period. A high school teacher's contract usually is for five periods; some will have the option to teach six periods and be compensated \$ 1,250.

The Superintendent search is going along very well. They have received 24 applications. They were told the average they would receive would be anywhere from seven to fifteen. They are beginning first round interviews this week.

Wabash River

Paula reported that the Parkway Commission has been working with WREC; it has been decided that the Commission will go under the umbrella of WREC and will be the awareness, education and advisory group. John Galloway has several ideas for events on the river.

Mike mentioned that WREC is in the process of selecting a Master Plan firm.

Joe passed around for the Board's review the new maps for the Transportation Enhancement application for the Wabash Heritage Trail extension. The new state trails and greenways plan refers to the Wabash Heritage Trail as a priority vision trail in the state. The trail will cross at River Road near Robinson going along River Road and around the corner into Happy Hollow, with a parking area where the two drives are that go into the lower part of Happy Hollow below the entrance into the Park, above the Children's Garden, modifying the existing bridge, crossing the road by the parking lot southeast of the playground and then making the connection to the Trolley Line Trail as Phase I. Phase II will go to Happy Hollow School and the new and improved bike lanes along Salisbury Street. Milestone appears to be the low quote for doing Salisbury and the normal city's resurfacing project, and we plan to ask them for a quote to do the extension to Nighthawk Trail using those good prices.

Other

Greater Lafayette Recreational Soccer Alliance

Pennie requested the Board agree to a Use Agreement between GLRSA and our Department for the soccer fields in Cumberland Park. The agreement would be from March 19 to May 20. It is the same contract we have used in the past. We have received

a current Certificate of Insurance from them. Mike moved approval of the Use Agreement. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Joe informed that there is going to be 'The First' St. Patrick's Day Parade in our community on Saturday, March 17, from Riehle Plaza, over the pedestrian bridge, into Tapawingo Park. It will start at 10 am.

Lafayette YMCA

Joe mentioned that the Lafayette YMCA is planning again to conduct a Run, the third of three running events they do to get ready for the Indianapolis Mini Marathon, the morning of March 31 using much of the Wabash Heritage Trail, starting at Tapawingo Park around 8:30 am, completing by 10:30 am.

Roger Branigan

Joe has been contacted by Roger Branigan who would like to provide a bench honoring the memory of his father at an appropriate stopping point on the Wabash Heritage Trail. Joe told him the Park Board would be informed and is generally pretty positive about receiving benches. He would like a little memorial plaque on it.

Mr. Atkinson

He wants to donate part of his back yard to Park Board for Happy Hollow Park. Joe has not looked at it yet on-site, but it appears to be a rough slope, that is not usable, and there may have an erosion problem.

Purchase Orders

Pay Claims

Garnet motioned for claims to be paid. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Adjourn

Mike motioned the meeting be adjourned. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:12 pm.

Presiding Officer

File: Cheryl/2007 Park Board Minutes/Minutes#2/February

Secretary